

A NOTE TO OUR READERS

The Spartan Daily will publish its next issue on Friday of this week and will resume normal daily publication Tuesday, Jan. 28.



opposingviews

Should universities be able to use race in the admissions process?

OPINION 2

Spartan hoops

Despite losing leading scorer Baker, men's team gets first conference win.

SPORTS 5



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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2003

State budget problems cause CSU to raise fees

By Rima Shah
Daily Staff Editor

The recession hit home for California State University and University of California students on Dec. 16 when CSU trustees and UC regents voted on a 10 percent to 15 percent midyear fee increase because of state budget cuts.

The fee increase will raise undergraduate state university fees by \$72

for students taking 6.1 units or more, making for a \$1,029.60 total per semester.

For undergraduate students taking 6 units or less, fees would increase by \$42 to \$699.60 per semester, according to the CSU system and Marlene Trifilo, cashiering services manager at San Jose State University.

Fees for graduate students taking 6 units or less would increase by \$66 to \$747.60 per semester. For graduate students taking 6.1 or more units, fees

would increase by \$114 to \$1,110.60 per semester.

Some students such as Christine Dela Cruz said they think the fee increase is not a "big deal."

Dela Cruz, a junior majoring in industrial systems engineering, is also a resident adviser. University Housing Services pays her fees.

"Seventy-two dollars won't make that much difference," Dela Cruz said. "Plus, it will help students to do better in their classes because their fees have

been increased."

The fee increase has been the first for CSU resident students since 1994, when the state was going through a similar financial crisis. It is also the first midyear fee increase since 1982-1983, according to Clara Potes-Fellow, spokeswoman for the CSU system.

CSU fees have been reduced twice since 1994.

Fees were reduced in 1998 and 1999 when the economy improved and stu-

dents were included in the benefits, Potes-Fellow said.

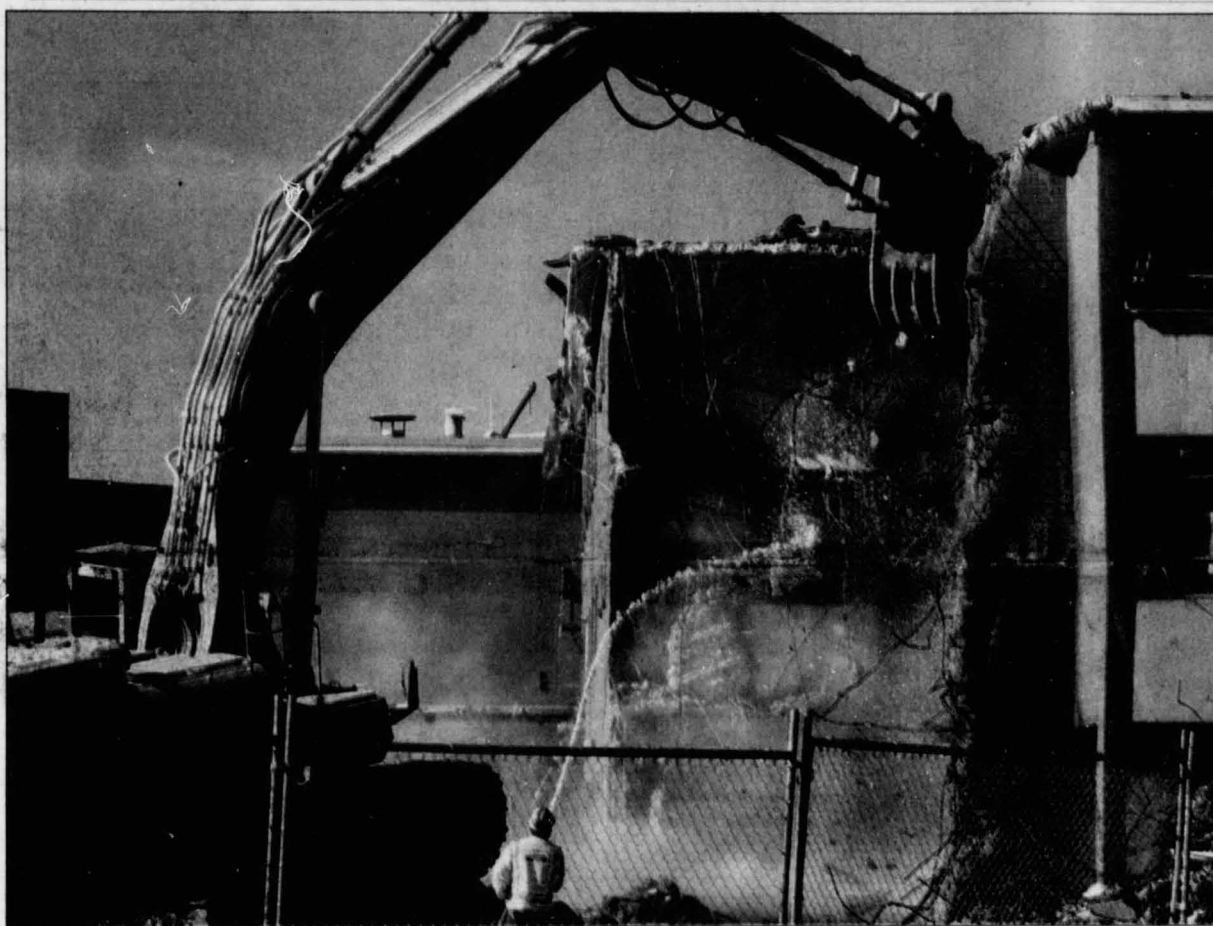
The current fee increase was the result of a \$59.6 million midyear cut to the CSU budget by Gov. Gray Davis. Earlier this year the system experienced a \$43 million cut and \$22.8 million in unfunded costs, according to the CSU system.

This totals up to about \$125 million, which the CSU system will have to cut from its budget of \$2.68 billion during 2002-2003.

Potes-Fellow explained the unfunded costs include the rising cost of health insurance for the CSU system and salary increases for the CSU staff and faculty members.

Maribel Martinez, president of the Associated Students at SJSU, was one of about 200 students from different CSU campuses protesting at the chancellor's office in Long Beach the day of the vote. She said the fee increase

See INCREASE, page 4



Ryan Balbuena / Daily Staff

A construction worker from Pacific State uses a water hose to help an excavator tear down a corner of Allen Hall. Moulder, Markham and Allen halls were demolished during Winter break to make room for phase I of the Campus Village project. The first phase was designed to house about 2,279 students and is scheduled to open in Fall 2005.

Dorms demolished

SJSU tears down three dorms to make way for new units scheduled to be completed in 2005

By Lea Blevins
Daily Staff Editor

Glimpsing through the holes that once contained windows in the red brick buildings, people on campus can watch the residence halls demolition process and see the dust rise.

The demolition began during Winter break and included Moulder, Markham and Allen halls. During the 30-month construction process, which is in its second month, the crews will build the Campus Village, said project director Randy Paul.

It will house new dorms on top of a two-level underground parking garage expected to be available for occupancy in August 2005.

Although San Jose State University students and employees generally seem excited, a sad feeling is present as they see the demolition process, SJSU housing staff said.

"I think before we started taking down the buildings there was a lot of excitement," said Diana Tran, community relations director from University Housing Services. "When school opened up again in early January, Moulder was mostly gone. I think some of the sadness hits because the buildings are coming down now."

To help mend this sadness, housing services are hosting Festival of the Bricks on campus Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the corner of Ninth and San Carlos streets.

"It's to honor the residence halls and all they've done for all the people who lived there," said Susan Hansen, director of University Housing Services. "They were a home to so many people. They're not just buildings."

The festival will include free prizes, food, raffles and children's games. Campus and community leaders are planning to attend,

including Councilwoman Cindy Chavez and SJSU President Robert Caret, Hansen said. Caret will operate one of the construction machines to help ceremoniously knock down what is left of Allen Hall.

Sadness is not the only negative feeling students have toward the demolition. The construction's noise is affecting the students who live in the remaining dorms, some residents said.

"I can't open the window," said Allen Ross, a sophomore music major who lives in Joe West Hall. "It's hecka loud."

The construction crews are allowed to work Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and during limited hours on some Saturdays. Some students said starting construction at an early hour wakes up residents in Joe West Hall whose windows face the work site.

Joe West resident Mandy Yan said she and her roommates bought earplugs to wear, but could still hear the noise even when they used them.

"It was operating on Martin Luther King Jr. Day which surprised me because I was planning on sleeping in," said Yan, a junior journalism major.

To help with the noise, Hansen said students would be issued earplugs, though Yan said they had not received any yet.

Some rooms in Joe West Hall are getting double-paned glass to help keep out some of the noise, and if it proves to be effective, other rooms will get the same, Hansen said. Soundproofing studies will be conducted during the semester in Joe West Hall.

A construction mitigation team made up of student representatives from the dorms meets weekly to discuss potential concerns or problems.

See DORMS, page 7

SJSU student found slain during break

By Anne Ward and
Justine DaCosta
Daily Staff Editors

When Valerie Zavala Wilson moved from Fillmore, Calif. to San Jose last year to attend San Jose State University, she brought with her a sense of enthusiasm and a determination to excel in her academics, said friends and family.

Valerie, a liberal arts major studying to become a grammar school teacher, was found dead New Year's Day in Fillmore. She had been visiting friends and family during the Winter break.

Norma Jean Wilson, Valerie's grandmother who was recovering from a



Zavala Wilson

broken foot when Valerie moved in with her grandparents to attend SJSU, taught Valerie how to drive. The two would go to lunch a lot, frequenting the Spaghetti Factory, one of Valerie's favorite places.

"We spent so much time together," Norma Jean said. "I couldn't drive and she was learning. When she first moved here, I don't know what we would have done without her."

Before she left the house, Valerie

always made sure to ask if her grandmother needed anything. Those caring ways kept Valerie connected to her entire family.

"She was very close to her siblings — like a second mom," Norma Jean said. "She talked to someone (in her family) every day."

With money she had saved from work, she bought her sisters concert tickets to see New Found Glory, Norma Jean said.

Kevin Wilson, Valerie's father, said she looked after her younger sisters and brother and they never fought.

"They all got along really well," Kevin said. "There were no brawls — ever."

He said her relationship with and devotion to her siblings is probably

what prompted her decision to teach.

Linda Wassal, now retired, was Valerie's counselor for four years at Fillmore High where Valerie was a cheerleader.

"She wanted to be a teacher," Wassal said. "She liked the little ones. She was bubbly, caring, empathetic, committed and cared a lot about her friends."

Though she had moved away from her high school friends, Valerie quickly made friends at her sorority, Alpha Kappa Delta Phi. She chose the sorority because the members made her feel welcome, Norma Jean said.

"She loved her sorority," Kevin said. "She was really big into it. She spent a

See STUDENT, page 4

Western Mexico rocked by 7.6 quake, 19 dead

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A powerful earthquake shook west-central Mexico late Tuesday, sending panicked residents spilling into the streets of major cities and knocking out power to many areas. Nineteen people were killed in the western state of Colima.

The first estimate from Mexico's national seismological service put the quake's magnitude at 7.6. The agency said it struck at 8:07 p.m. in Colima, a small state which includes the port city of Manzanillo, roughly 300 miles west of Mexico City.

Butch Kinerney, a spokesman for the U.S. Geological Survey, said scientists there calculated the magnitude at 7.8.

"There are general reports of damage from the states of Colima, Michoacan and Jalisco," Kinerney

said. "Because of the size of the earthquake and its shallow depth, USGS is expecting substantial damage."

Colima Gov. Fernando Moreno Pena said 19 people were killed in the quake, nine in the capital city of Colima and 10 others elsewhere in his state.

It was difficult to communicate with all of Colima by telephone, partly due to overloaded lines, but Melchor Usua Quiroz, head of Colima's civil defense authorities, told the government news agency Notimex that the quake damaged homes and businesses and briefly left several people trapped in elevators across Colima.

In Guadalajara, the capital of neighboring Jalisco state and Mexico's second-largest city, doctors treated dozens of people for panic.

There were no reports of physical injuries.

State civil defense officials said that a hotel and several houses were damaged but there were no reports of massive damage.

"In the state of Jalisco we do not have reports of major damage and we do not have victims," Gov. Francisco Ramirez Acuna told a local television station.

President Vicente Fox ordered the military to search for damage in the region, which includes remote villages, and to offer aid to those affected.

The president's office, however, said an early inspection by the Mexican Navy found only power outages.

In Mexico City, people rushed into the streets, many of them barefoot or wrapped in blankets against the chill.

Police cars drove slowly through the streets of Mexico City with sirens flashing, asking people over loudspeakers: "Is everything OK?"

"I felt it very strongly and I saw all the people leave, very scared," said Victor Morales, 46, an apartment building superintendent in the Condesa neighborhood of Mexico City. "I stayed calm because I trust in God."

Some earthquakes of magnitude 7 have caused massive damage, but the effect of a quake can be affected by many factors, including its depth and the sort of earth through which it passes as it moves away from the epicenter.

Mexico City is built atop a former lake bed in a mountain valley which acts as a sort of amplifier for the motion of quakes.

'I already told you ...'



Karin Higgins / Daily Staff

Yvonne Pingue, a freshman majoring in photojournalism, and her boyfriend Daniel Moore, a freshman majoring in business, share a tender moment in the Student Union amphitheatre.

opposingviews:

Should universities be allowed to use race in admissions policies?

YES | Affirmative action opens up doors and opportunities

Two people of different ethnicities apply for admission to a university and there is only one spot available. Applicant A, a white male with a 2.7 GPA and a 1,000 SAT score, gets a letter in the mail from the university informing him that he has not been accepted. In another city, Applicant B, a black (or any other non-Caucasian race) male with a 2.7 GPA and a 1,000 SAT score, also gets a letter in the mail from the same university. "Congratulations Applicant B, welcome to our school," the first line of his letter reads.

"Affirmative action does not guarantee anything. Rather it opens the door for those who have not had the same opportunities."



BEN AGUIRRE JR.

Now, your reaction to the aforementioned scenario is probably one of disgust, but before you go spouting off against affirmative action and begin bringing up the topic of "reverse discrimination," I need you to think about this topic.

What is the point of affirmative action and why does it exist? The purpose of affirmative action is not to discriminate against those of Caucasian backgrounds. It is to help non-Caucasians get the opportunities to do things that they were historically not able to obtain because of their racial background.

The key word there is opportunity.

Affirmative action does not guarantee anything. Rather it opens the door for those who have not had the same opportunities because of their racial makeup and the areas they come from.

Now I would be lying if I said that affirmative

action was perfect, it does have its flaws, one being that based on your last name, you could have priority over another person in an application process such as the one at University of Michigan, which has been criticized by President Bush.

I suppose I am a good example of someone who doesn't exactly need affirmative action, but reap the benefits of it nonetheless.

Look at my last name ... Aguirre. When you see that, what does that make you think I am? Spanish? Mexican? White? Filipino?

It is a bit deceiving because I am Filipino with some Spanish and white, but I have received the opportunity to do things because of my racial makeup that others have not.

Am I ashamed? No. Did I take the opportunity and run with it, creating my own reasons for people to hire me? Yes.

You see, this is where the battle hits an all time high. People say that affirmative action shuts out people such as Applicant A while admitting persons such as Applicant B simply because of their racial profile. But have you thought about how many people were on the other end of the stick historically?

How many people prior to affirmative action were being shoved aside simply because of their racial profile?

Affirmative action should not be seen as a way to pay reparations to those races that have suffered from profiling in the past.

However, I do believe that affirmative action is necessary in any application process, including university admissions, until there is a level playing field.

Ben Aguirre Jr. is the Spartan Daily production editor.

NO | College should be a place where grades matter, not color

In this great country of ours, we've adopted the idealistic notions that equal opportunity is cherished, diversity is embraced and access to a top-notch education is within every person's grasp. However, when universities and other institutions of higher education embrace policies that include race as a factor in the admissions process, like the University of Michigan, it actually serves to undermine these values that we hold so dear.

College is, above all else, a place for academia. Parties, sports and relationships aside, the true reason that students go to college is to get an education that will better prepare them for the future.

Learning to balance a school schedule with other activities is also essential to being prepared for the real world. So naturally, colleges look at grades along with extracurricular activities to determine which students are most qualified to enter the institution.

The key to this situation is that grades and after-school activities are achieved, not ascribed. Students have to work hard to get their test scores up and juggle their schedules. No one is born with good grades.

We are born with our color or race, however, and that is something that no amount of effort will change.

The reasoning for race-based admissions policies stems from the philosophy that certain groups have been, and continue to be, routinely discriminated against, and in order to level the playing field, some minority groups should be helped out.

To assume that someone is at a disadvantage because of race and needs some extra help to get into school is nothing short of racist.

The common assumption is that to increase the diversity of a campus population, certain minority groups need to be given a "boost" in order to have that equal opportunity. This not only discriminates against those who achieve academically and deserve admission, but it reprehensibly assumes that other groups would not be able to achieve in the academic realm because of their racial background.

Creating a campus with racial diversity should not come at the cost of undermining its academic integrity, and when students are admitted because of a racially based point bonus rather than academic performance, it sends the message that color is more important than grades.

By accepting students whose academic skills are not up to typical university standards, it robs those who worked hard for their admission, despite race.

This is not to say that all of those who are favored by racially tinged admissions policies are under-achievers. Many students of supposedly disadvantaged groups are excellent students and work hard to deserve their admission.

Herein lies the other flaw of using race in admissions — generalization. Being in a certain racial group does not make one a better or worse student, or having a higher or lower intelligence. One might encounter prejudice in life — that much is true — but the stereotyping of racial groups in collegiate admissions is prejudice itself.

Rather than perpetuating societal trends of racially based preferences and prejudices, perhaps colleges could be the places where people really are evaluated for who they are, not what they are.

Melinda Latham is the Spartan Daily opinion editor.



ILLUSTRATION BY WARREN PAYLADO

campusvoices



"Either way that you look at it, it seems biased. If you favor one race over another, what does that say about your educational standards?"

Kristine Obillo
health science



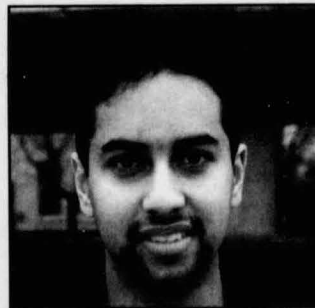
"No, because it's discrimination in a lighter form. Race shouldn't factor into how you get into school."

Emily Kruger
art/French



"It's not fair. (Admission) should be about what's in your head, not the color of your skin."

Young Han
marketing



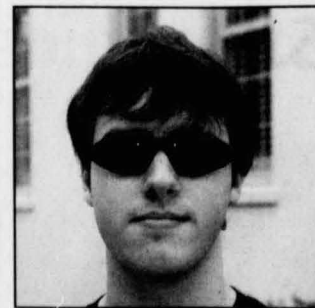
"We should use academic records and your background. Some people may have gone to a high school that offered different advantages than others."

Kevin Sharma
computer engineering



"It's a complicated and tricky matter. There's a lot of inequality and it needs to be corrected and it's a hard thing to do."

Michael Kelly
urban planning



"I'd like it to be completely merit based, but if you do it that way then it's still going to be criticized."

Ryan Stark
computer engineering

Compiled by Chris Giovannetti | Photos by Vicki Thompson

SPARTAN DAILY

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OPINION PAGE POLICY | Readers are encouraged to express themselves on the Opinion page with a letter to the editor.

A letter to the editor is a 200-word response to an issue or a point of view that has appeared in the Spartan Daily.

A viewpoint is the same as a letter to the editor, except it is a 400-word response to an issue or point of view that has appeared in the Spartan Daily. Submissions become property of the Spartan Daily and may be edited for clarity, grammar, length and content. Submissions must contain the author's name, address, phone number, signature and major.

Submissions may be placed in the Letters to the Editor box at the Spartan Daily office in Dwight Bentel Hall, Room 209, sent by fax to (408) 924-3237, e-mail at SDAILY@jmc.sjsu.edu or mailed to the Spartan Daily Opinion Editor, School of Journalism and Mass Communications, San Jose State University, One Washington Square, San Jose, CA 95192-0149.

Editorials are written by, and are the consensus of the Spartan Daily editors, not the staff.

Published opinions and advertisements do not necessarily reflect the views of the Spartan Daily, the School of Journalism and Mass Communications, or SJSU.

editorsrespond:

What is the responsibility of the Spartan Daily to the campus community?



The Spartan Daily is here to inform the students and the campus community. It is our job to make sure our readers know what is happening in the university and the surrounding area. Students rely on us for information they need to get through their time here at SJSU. It's our job to get them that information accurately and in a timely manner.

Mike Corpus
Executive Editor



As members of the Spartan Daily staff, I feel it is our responsibility to provide factual information to our readers. From academic fee increases to an impending war with Iraq, knowledge is our first line of defense.

Justine DaCosta
Managing Editor



Naturally, the Spartan Daily is here to inform everyone on campus about the issues important to our community, but it also serves as a forum for people to express their opinions about those issues. A campus paper is more than just a collection of stories and pictures—it's one of the ways that the campus community can speak out and be heard.

Melinda Latham
Opinion Editor



The Daily's responsibility is to be the voice of information and entertainment to the campus. It should bear in mind that it may not always please the entire community, but if they don't like it, they should join it and make a difference. That is why I'm here.

Daniel Lopez
Sports Editor



Keeping our campus informed is the Daily's main responsibility. From campus events and local news to the latest movie or a nation-wide issue, our goal is to let people know what is going on. The Arts & Entertainment section is responsible for letting readers know about fun events, places to go and bring a spotlight to artistic members of the campus community.

Lea Blevins
A&E Editor



The responsibility of the Spartan Daily is pretty simple and straightforward — keep our readers informed. Information is knowledge, power and entertainment. Newspapers are a vehicle to communicate information and events that, no matter how big or small, affect the lives of students, staff, faculty members and community both near and far.

Anne Ward
Projects Editor



In my eyes, the responsibility of the newspaper is to be the watchdog of the campus. In doing that, we must remain unbiased and sensitive to issues without being afraid to run controversial stories should they happen.

Ben Aguirre Jr.
Production Editor



The Spartan Daily has a responsibility to inform the readers of the news and current events that happen around the campus and beyond. Also, it should be able to provide the readers with something that they normally do not get to experience or see in their daily lives.

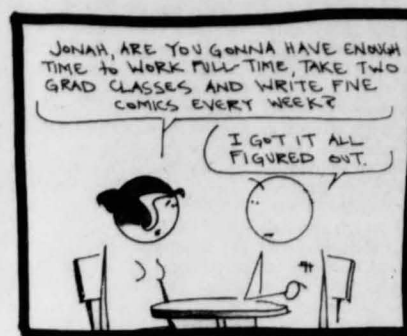
Ryan Balbuena
Photo Editor



The Spartan Daily, being the voice of the student community on campus, should work to inform students about how developments affecting San Jose State University affect their lives and how they as students affect the larger world.

Rima Shah
Copy Editor

ANOTHER DIMENTION | JONAH PTAK



Letter | Roe v. Wade

Dear Editor,

This is in response to Roe v. Wade (1973).

An alternative to abortion: California Assembly Bill 1764 (signed into law in The Year of Our Lord 2000) provides "that no parent or other person having lawful custody of a minor child 72 hours old or younger may be prosecuted...if he or she voluntarily surrenders physical custody of the child to any employee on duty at a public or private hospital emergency room."

An unwanted pregnancy can become someone else's wanted baby.

Give life a chance.

Lawrence Eagletears Miller
alumnus
criminal justice

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SPARTA GUIDE

Does your campus organization or club have an event that it wants to publicize?

Make the campus community aware by getting your event published in the Spartan Daily Sparta Guide.

Sparta Guide is provided free of charge to students, faculty and staff members. The deadline for entries is noon three working days before the desired publication date. Entry forms are available in the Spartan Daily office in Dwight Bentel Hall, Room 209. Space restrictions may require editing of submissions. Entries are printed in the order in which they are received.

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STA TRAVEL

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INCREASE | CSU to cut some travel expenses

continued from page 1

could have waited until people were ready.

Martinez said while fees were being increased, departments were also cutting classes.

"Students are being affected negatively from both sides," Martinez said. "The next couple of years would be a bad time to be a CSU student."

Because of the high cost of living in the Silicon Valley, the students who would be most impacted would be those from low income families, single parents and students who had already planned their budget for the year, she said.

The fee increase passed by a 13-3 vote. Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante was one of three trustees voting against the fee increase.

In a statement issued Dec. 16, he said action to increase student fees is premature and before voting to increase fees, the trustees should wait to learn the outcome of the legislative hearings on the budget cuts.

"Increasing student fees would be

short-sighted and would hurt California's working class and middle class families," Bustamante said in the statement. "We know that raising fees will decrease attendance at our universities. As leaders, we should be working to make college more affordable during these tough economic times."

Now, more than ever, we should be investing in our state's future leaders."

Aside from the fee increase, Potes-Fellow said the CSU system also had to cut administrative and travel costs.

The "fee increase was necessary in order to maintain the high quality (of education) or we would have to cut classes or academic services," she said.

CSU students, who numbered about 407,000 in Fall 2002, pay state university fees, aside from mandatory campus fees and user fees, which students pay to their respective campuses.

State university fees pay for counseling, testing, student activities, health services and student financial aid administration in addition to some supplies and service costs of instruction and instructional resources, according to SJSU.

Non-resident students pay additional fees. Non-resident student fees were increased 15 percent for the 2002-2003 academic year (from \$246 to \$282 per semester unit), according to the CSU.

The fee increase is said to generate \$30 million, one-third of which will go to financial aid, to cover the increase in fees, according to the CSU.

CSU fees still remain the lowest in the nation even with a 10 percent fee increase, the lowest of the 15 universities regularly used for comparison by the California Postsecondary Education Commission, according to the CSU.

For example, fees for Rutgers University, New Jersey's state university, are \$7,308 per semester, which includes tuition.

SJSU students who were billed before the fee increase voted on will be billed for the increase after the add/drop period, according to Trifilo.

Potes-Fellow said the CSU system does not expect to see a decrease in enrollment with the implementation of the current fee increase but said

there might be a decrease in enrollment if there were further fee increases. She also said the CSU system would not let the current crisis influence enrollment.

"The mission of the CSU system is to promote access to qualified students and to keep its doors open to all qualified students," Potes-Fellow said.

Andrea Gilmore, a junior majoring in psychology, said the fee increase would be more of a burden on her. Although her family is helping her, she does not think the fee increase is good.

"They have medical bills to pay," she said. "They're going through issues too."

On Jan. 10, the governor proposed new budget cuts, which were 25 percent on top of what he had already proposed. The CSU board of trustees doesn't know yet if they will act on it.

A.S. President Maribel Martinez said officials should improve the quality of advising offered so students can save money by avoiding the wrong classes and staying on the tight track toward their degrees.

Home of missing Modesto women burglarized

Associated Press

MODESTO (AP) — The home of a pregnant woman who has been missing since Christmas Eve was burglarized while her husband organized search efforts in Southern California, police said.

Scott Peterson, 30, reported the break-in Sunday night. Police said burglars entered through a window sometime between Thursday and Sunday.

"Detectives don't believe the burglary is connected to the Peterson case," said Detective Doug Ridenour, spokesman for the Modesto Police Department.

Police refused to say what was taken from the home.

Peterson's 27-year-old wife, Laci, has been missing since Christmas

Eve. Scott Peterson told police he was fishing at the Berkeley Marina at the time, and that his wife, due to deliver a boy Feb. 10, had planned to take her dog for a walk that morning.

Modesto police repeatedly searched the waters of the marina but found no sign of the missing woman.

Though attention focused on Scott Peterson after police told his wife's relatives that he was having an affair, he has not been named as a suspect in the case.

Peterson, along with his parents, brother and sister, were in Los Angeles distributing fliers Sunday, and promised to expand search efforts to San Diego this weekend. But police say they are concentrating their search efforts in and around Modesto, which is about 80 miles east of San Francisco.

Speaker introduces car fee increase to head off local cuts

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO (AP) — Backed by dozens of police and fire chiefs, Assembly Speaker Herb Wesson introduced a bill Tuesday to raise vehicle license fees \$115 for the average car and avoid a "public safety disaster" in local budget cuts.

"This is a life and death issue," Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca said as police chiefs, sheriffs, fire chiefs and other law enforcement leaders packed the Capitol news conference room to support the bill.

"There are people who will die because we in law enforcement will not get there in time" if the budget cuts take place.

But Assemblyman John Campbell, the lead Republican on the Assembly Budget Committee, said lawmakers should focus on giving local government more stable revenue sources instead of raising vehicle fees.

He said Republicans would challenge the measure in court if Wesson and other Democrats try to get around GOP opposition by enacting the bill with simple majorities instead of the two-thirds votes usually required for tax hikes.

"Tripling the car tax is simply going to hurt working families and will not solve the budget deficit," Campbell said.

Under Wesson's proposal, fee increases could start hitting motorists' pocketbooks in the last half of this year. The fees could drop once the budget picture

improves.

Because the bill just clarifies existing law means lawmakers can pass the bill with a simple majority instead of a two-thirds vote, aides to the speaker said. Despite talk of a legal challenge, Campbell does not dispute Wesson's interpretation of the law reducing the fee, which was approved by overwhelming bipartisan majorities of the Assembly and Senate in 1998.

But Wesson's bill could also face opposition in the governor's office if it gets that far. Gov. Gray Davis has been cool to the idea of a fee increase, even though he proposed one last year. He hasn't said he would veto the Wesson bill, however.

Vehicle license fees would be restored to their 1998 level under the bill, which would increase the annual fee paid to register the average car from \$55 to \$170, according to Department of Motor Vehicle figures.

The approximately \$4 billion raised by the measure would replace payments the state makes to local governments to make up for the loss of revenue caused by a series of cuts in the VLF that began in 1998.

Davis has proposed eliminating the so-called back-fill payments to local agencies to help erase a state budget deficit that his administration says totals \$34.6 billion and the legislative analyst puts at \$26.1 billion.

Spending cuts alone won't solve the state's budget problems, Wesson said, adding that the law that reduced the

VLF envisioned it increasing again when the state couldn't afford to make the back-fill payments.

"Everybody agreed on that," Wesson said.

His bill would add teeth to the roll-back language in current law by:

— Designating the state finance director to determine the state cannot afford the back-fill payments. Current law is silent on who makes that decision.

— Saying the state's ability to borrow funds could not be considered by the director in making his finding.

Law enforcement officials said the

threat of losing the back-fill payments has already caused some local government administrators to order cutbacks in fire and police services.

Seventy percent of the back-fill now goes to public safety programs, Wesson said.

"The governor's proposal alone has set off a tidal wave of fear and concern," said Newport Beach Police Chief Bob McDonnell.

But Steve Peace, Davis' new finance director, said the governor's budget proposals would take smaller percentage cuts out of local governments than state services.

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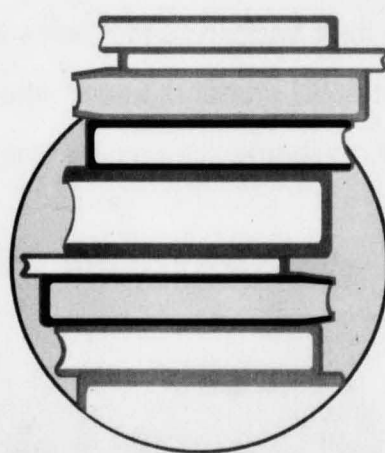
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Spartans land WAC win

By Chris Giovannetti
Daily Senior Staff Writer

Call it déjà vu with a small twist. The San Jose State University men's basketball team debuted a lineup on Saturday that looked anything but imposing.

Facing the Western Athletic Conference co-leader University of Hawai'i the Spartans' starting lineup featured three guards and no player taller than 6-foot, 5-inches.

SPARTAN BASKETBALL IN THE PAINT NOTEBOOK

What the Spartans lacked in height, they made up for with intensity, dominating both ends of the floor in a 79-67 victory. SJSU (1-4 WAC, 4-10 overall) took the lead for good at 7-4 and fended off preseason WAC favorite Hawai'i the rest of the way.

For the second year in a row, SJSU earned its first WAC victory at home against a Hawai'i team sitting atop the league standings.

"Hawai'i (4-2 WAC, 11-3 overall) was the first game where we put two halves together," SJSU guard Maurice Moore-Armon said. "Against (Boise State University and the University of Texas-El Paso) and all of our other losses, we were up at some point in the game. We were finally able to close a game out."

Moore-Armon added that the win gave the smaller and scrappier SJSU confidence it had been sorely lacking.

Forward Oudie Baker left the team in early January. According to the program, the 6-foot, 6-inch Baker didn't return from his home in East Chicago, Ind., until Dec. 31, missing the Spartans Dec. 28 game against Brown University. As a result of his tardiness, Baker was not allowed to travel with the team to Boise State on Jan. 2 and UTEP on Dec. 4.

Baker quit the team shortly thereafter.

"It didn't effect us chemistry wise but emotionally, (Baker) leaving the team kind of woke us up. We know we have to get things done. He was our leading scorer and we had to step it up," Moore-Armon said of

Baker, who averaged 16.4 points and 6.3 rebounds at the time of his departure.

Forward Eric Walton missed the Hawai'i game with a bruised thigh. His return date hasn't been announced.

In the five days of practice leading up to the Hawai'i game, Spartan head coach Phil Johnson stressed the importance of defense to his team. Those practices included film sessions of the Miami Heat, coached by Pat Riley — a coach notorious for his defensive philosophy in NBA circles.

"We watched a lot of tape of how they play defense," said forward Keith Everage who tallied his first collegiate double-double with 14 points and 11 rebounds against Hawai'i. "We really wanted to step it up on defense. We had been really lackadaisical early on and knew we had to come out with more (defensive pressure)."

Against a jump shooting team like Hawai'i, the Spartans used a man-to-man defense to lock down Warrior sharpshooters Carl English and Mark Campbell.

"They're a jump shooting team and we had to take that away," Johnson said. "We saw what they did against Fresno State and we were determined to not let them have any good looks."

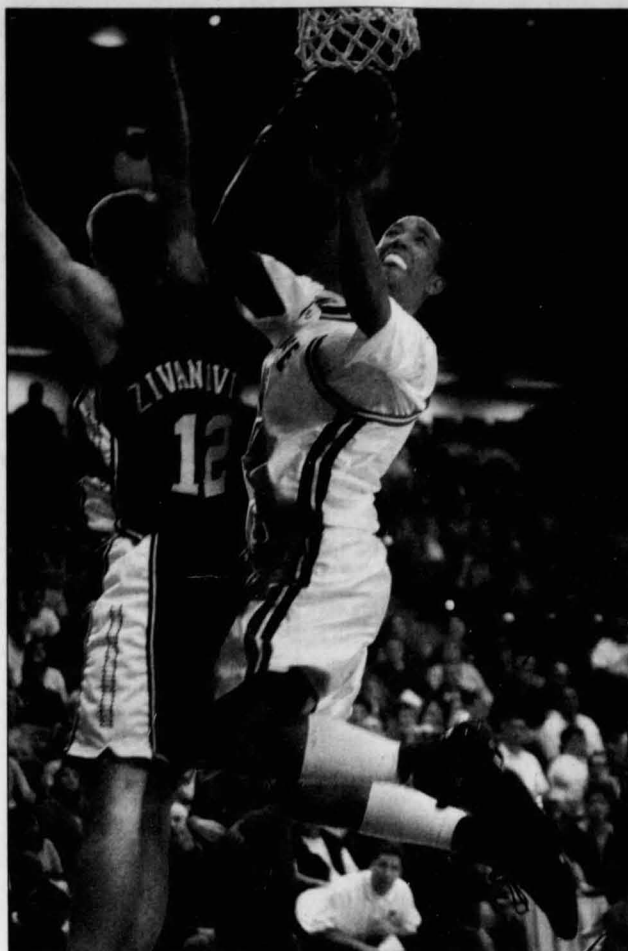
Johnson also stressed shot selection. Realizing the Spartans lack of post presence, he encouraged his guards to be more ambitious. On Saturday, guards Brandon Hawkins and Keith West used their speed and beat their defenders on the first step to slash down the lane and to the basket.

"When they went small, we knew we'd be in trouble because we can't keep their guys in front of ours," Rainbow Warriors head coach Riley Wallace said.

The Spartans' size — or lack thereof — means little to the players and coaching staff that have come to the realization that intensity and pressure will have to overshadow stature.

"It ain't no issue," forward Antonio Lawrence said. "We just look small but when we get out there we're tough. We've got to get down and dirty because that's all we got. We're going to dish it out and whoever can stand it the longest is going to survive."

SJSU returns to action on Thursday at the University of Nevada-Reno and on Saturday at Fresno State University.



Josh Sturgis / Daily Staff

San Jose State University forward Keith Everage goes up for two points against University of Hawai'i center Milos Zivanovic. The Spartans beat the Warriors 79-67 at the Event Center on Jan. 18, ending an eight-game losing streak.

Women's Basketball

Spartan women's guard Cricket Williams reached a milestone in a bitter-sweet loss to Hawai'i on Saturday.

The All-WAC guard scored her 1,000th career point in a 54-40 loss to the Rainbow Wahine on a lay-up in the waning seconds of the game.

The basket gave her 1,001 points for her career, ninth on the all-time school scoring list.

The Spartan (2-3 WAC, 6-8 overall) women return home this week with a Thursday game against the University of Nevada-Reno and Saturday against Fresno State University.

Tip-off times are slated for 7 p.m. at the Event Center.

Editors note: 'In the paint' will run every Thursday beginning next week — D.L.

Sanfilippo drafted by Earthquakes

Daily Staff Report

Spartan midfielder Frank Sanfilippo was selected by the San Jose Earthquakes in the sixth round of the 2003 Major League Soccer Super Draft held on Jan. 18.

SPARTAN ROUNDUP

As the "Most Valuable Player" for the Spartans in 2002, he was also a first-team All-Mountain Pacific Sports Federation choice, collegesoccernews.com third-team All-American and was named to the All-Far West regional team by the National Soccer Coaches Association.

As a senior, Sanfilippo has one season of college eligibility remaining.

Women's soccer

The Spartan women's soccer team is searching for a new head soccer coach after Tamie Grimes resigned from her duties with the team. Grimes' resignation, which she gave in order to pursue family interests, took effect on Dec. 31, ending her five-season career as a coach at SJSU. Grimes, who was first an assistant coach with the Spartans for two years and later interim coach, was the first head coach to lead a Spartan women's soccer team to the NCAA Tournament. As the interim coach in 2000, she led the Spartans to the Western Athletic Conference tournament title and the team's first NCAA Tournament bid. Grimes' three year coaching record was 18-37-7.

As a national search takes place to find a new head coach, assistant coach Kris Gilmore will serve as interim coach until a new coach is named.

Baseball

Spartan right-handed pitcher Matt Durkin was named to the preseason all-conference team as picked by conference coaches. SJSU and Fresno State were predicted to tie for second place in the preseason poll. Rice University was selected to win the WAC for the seventh year in a row and had nine players named to the preseason all-WAC team.

The Spartans open the 2003 season Feb. 7 with a tournament at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

Softball

SJSU Senior outfielder Becca Baldrige who led the team in hitting last season with a .312 batting average was selected to the 2003 preseason all-WAC team. The Spartans were picked to finish fourth in the WAC by conference coaches and Fresno State was picked to win the WAC.

The Spartans had an overall record of 25-44 and went 8-16 in the WAC in 2002. SJSU opens the 2003 season on Jan. 31 at the Cal Tournament against Tennessee and defending national champion California.

Gymnastics

The Spartan Gymnastics team opened the 2003 season placing fourth out of four teams participating at the Maui Invitational on Jan. 3. Stanford University won the invitational.

On Jan. 10 the Spartans won their home opener against Sacramento State. The Spartans won their first dual meet of the season with a total team score of 191.300. SJSU's Dani Albright took first place honors on the vault and floor and in the all around with a score of 38.575.

The Spartans next competition is Friday in Seattle against the University of Washington and the University of Arizona.

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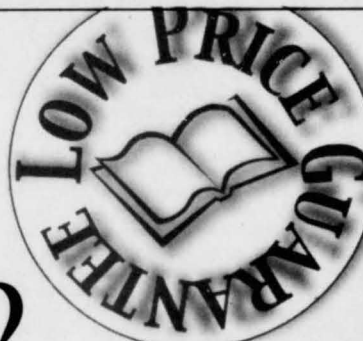
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lot of time with her sorority sisters."

Outside of school and spending time with her sorority, Valerie worked at Albertson's and at Chuck E. Cheese prior to that.

Norma Jean said Valerie loved her job at Albertson's and said she was looking forward to receiving her health benefits so she could pay for braces on her own.

Those who worked with Valerie knew a people-oriented person who was mature for her 19 years.

Albertson's supervisor Darlene Vieira said Valerie was always upbeat and would "go the extra mile" whenever it was needed.

"Oh God, she was just outstanding," Vieira said. "The ultimate employee."

As a team leader at Chuck E. Cheese, Valerie was responsible for setting a good example for her co-workers. She helped create and teach dance sequences that were performed during the live shows.

"We still use one of the dances she choreographed," said former co-worker Corrie Borns. "I remember she used to make fun of me because I couldn't do the box step."

Priscilla Garcia, who worked with Valerie at the San Jose restaurant, said Valerie was a problem solver who insisted people talk out their problems.

"We were the same age but she seemed a lot older, more mature," she said.

Every week, Valerie would give her co-workers an inspirational quote, Garcia said.

"One I remember is 'Do what you want, but remember the consequences,'" she said. "She tried her best to help people."

Even in high school, Valerie was committed to her community and strived to create harmony.

"She always gave of herself," Wassal said. "Without asking, or expecting, anything in return."

Norma Jean said Valerie's family has received an outpouring of support from those who were touched by Valerie, including members of the SJSU community.

Wallace Davenport, assistant vice president for student affairs, said he has been communicating with Valerie's family during their time of loss.

"This is tragic for the student body because they have lost a community member," he said. "This is a time for grieving."

Davenport said Valerie's family has decided to donate her books to a campus tutoring program, where the books will go toward furthering education.

"That's what Valerie would have wanted," Norma Jean said. "To help other people."

Valerie Zavala Wilson is survived by her mother Michelle Wilson; father, Kevin Wilson; sisters Jessica and Kirsten; and brother Kevin.

Satellite video goes to war

FORT DIX, N.J. (AP) — The Pentagon plans to use two-way satellite videophones from combat zones to provide the media with on-the-spot visuals it says could counter enemy propaganda.

The \$27,000 Austrian-made system will allow military field commanders to hold "near real-time" videoconferences with journalists, said Lt. Col. David Lamp, a

spokesman for the U.S. Joint Forces Command.

Lamp displayed one of the Scotty Tele-Transport Corp. videophones during a Pentagon training seminar for reporters at the Army base here Monday. The rugged briefcase cradles a laptop computer with video-editing and recording capacity and includes a built-in camera, keyboard and a pair of external collapsible

satellite dish antennas.

Television networks have begun using such equipment extensively over the past year.

The Defense Department and U.S. intelligence agencies already use remote videoconferencing devices, Lamp said. The Pentagon plans to have four public affairs teams share two of the portable broadcast devices.

Abortion rights, critics to march on Roe v. Wade anniversary

WASHINGTON (AP) — Thousands of activists on both sides of the abortion debate are rallying to mark Wednesday's 30th anniversary of the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion.

On the eve of the anniversary, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception received about 7,000 people — including five cardinals, 36 bishops and 250 priests — for its annual "Mass for Life" and prayer service. Philadelphia Roman Catholic Archbishop Anthony Bevilacqua, who chairs an anti-abortion committee of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, led the service.

"Most anniversaries are causes for celebration," Bevilacqua said. "This one is not. It is a day of mourning. Mourning for this immoral, unjust, illogical decision."

Across town, NARAL Pro-Choice America hosted a dinner featuring Democratic presidential candidates, including former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, Rep. Dick Gephardt

of Missouri and Sens. John Edwards of North Carolina, John Kerry of Massachusetts and Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut.

This year's anniversary is the first since Republicans regained control of the Senate. The GOP also holds the House and the White House.

Abortion-rights supporters are wary the Republican domination — coupled with the possibility of a retirement from the Supreme Court this year — increases the chances Roe v. Wade could be eroded or overturned. The high court now is split 5-4 in favor of abortion rights.

Kim Gandy, president of the National Organization for Women, said her organization's focus will be on maintaining the current Supreme Court balance and ensuring that "we will not be the generation that both won and lost reproductive rights in our lifetime."

"With George Bush looking at potential justices who are not only very conservative, but very young — high 30s, young 40s — we're talking

about a justice who would be carrying out that philosophy for another 35 to 40 years, which is literally generations," Gandy said Tuesday. "It's the entire reproductive life of my 9-year-old daughter."

The largest demonstration Wednesday is expected to be the March for Life, an annual rally that Bush plans to address via satellite from St. Louis. The march starts at noon at the Washington Monument and ends at the Supreme Court steps.

Organizers predict more than 50,000 people will attend.

Planned Parenthood Federation of America has planned a counter-protest at the Supreme Court. It also will hold an "online rally" that will let people nationwide sign petitions to Bush and their members of Congress and watch a video about the history of Roe v. Wade.

Also Wednesday, the Feminist Majority Foundation begins a two-day conference with more than 400 college students who will discuss ways to maintain abortion rights.

Two Californians among avalanche victims

CALGARY, Alberta (AP) — A survivor of an avalanche that killed seven people, including snowboard pioneer Craig Kelly and three other Americans, said Tuesday he was awed by the incredible power of the snow slide.

"It was like swimming down the roughest river I've ever been in and trying to keep my head above water," John Seibert of Wasilla, Alaska, said of getting caught in the avalanche that thundered 300 feet down the mountainside.

The seven people killed were part of a group of skiers and snowboarders who flew in by helicopter to a mountain chalet with access to untouched, wild glaciers and slopes, suffocated under 15 feet of snow.

"If you get caught in one of those things, you can't flex a muscle, let alone breathe," said Ian Stratham of the Revelstoke ambulance service, who arrived at the scene about two hours after the snowslide.

The dead were identified as Kelly, 36, who lived in Nelson, British Columbia; Ralph Lunsford, 49, of Littleton, Colo.; Dennis Yates, 50, of Los Angeles; and Kathleen Kessler, 39, of Truckee, Calif.

Three others were from Canada, including Naomi Heffler, 25, of Calgary and Dave Finney, 30, of New Westminster, British Columbia. The name of a 50-year-old man from Canmore, Alberta, was not released pending notification of relatives.

Fourteen others in the group survived, some of them — including Seibert — digging themselves out of the snow.

Seibert, a geophysicist, described the weeklong backcountry ski trip that began Saturday as dedicated to safety, with a seminar on using the avalanche beacon each member carried the first day of business.

He said his three decades of experience in mountains and skiing gave him no warning of the avalanche that began with a loud crack.

"A few seconds later, the moving snow swept me off my skis and I started down the slope," he said. "I came to rest with my head and left hand exposed. The remainder of my body was locked in concrete-hard snow."

The other survivors were in a kind of shock after the avalanche, Seibert said, but some stayed up on the mountain Tuesday instead of coming down when weather cleared enough for a helicopter to reach the chalet where they spent the night.


Sgt. Randy Brown of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police said investigators were looking at what caused the avalanche as the skiers, divided into two groups, made their way up a slope.

To Seibert, the adventure involved no undue risk.

"There was nothing in my mind that was a warning sign we should not be on that slope on that day," he said, calling the tragedy "a fluke of nature."

Kelly, who also lived in Mount Vernon, Washington, helped pioneer snowboard riding in the late 1980s and was a four-time world champ and three-time U.S. Open champion.

Tim O'Mara of mountainzone.com in Seattle said Kelly was a legendary figure in snowboarding who was greatly involved in the growth of the sport.



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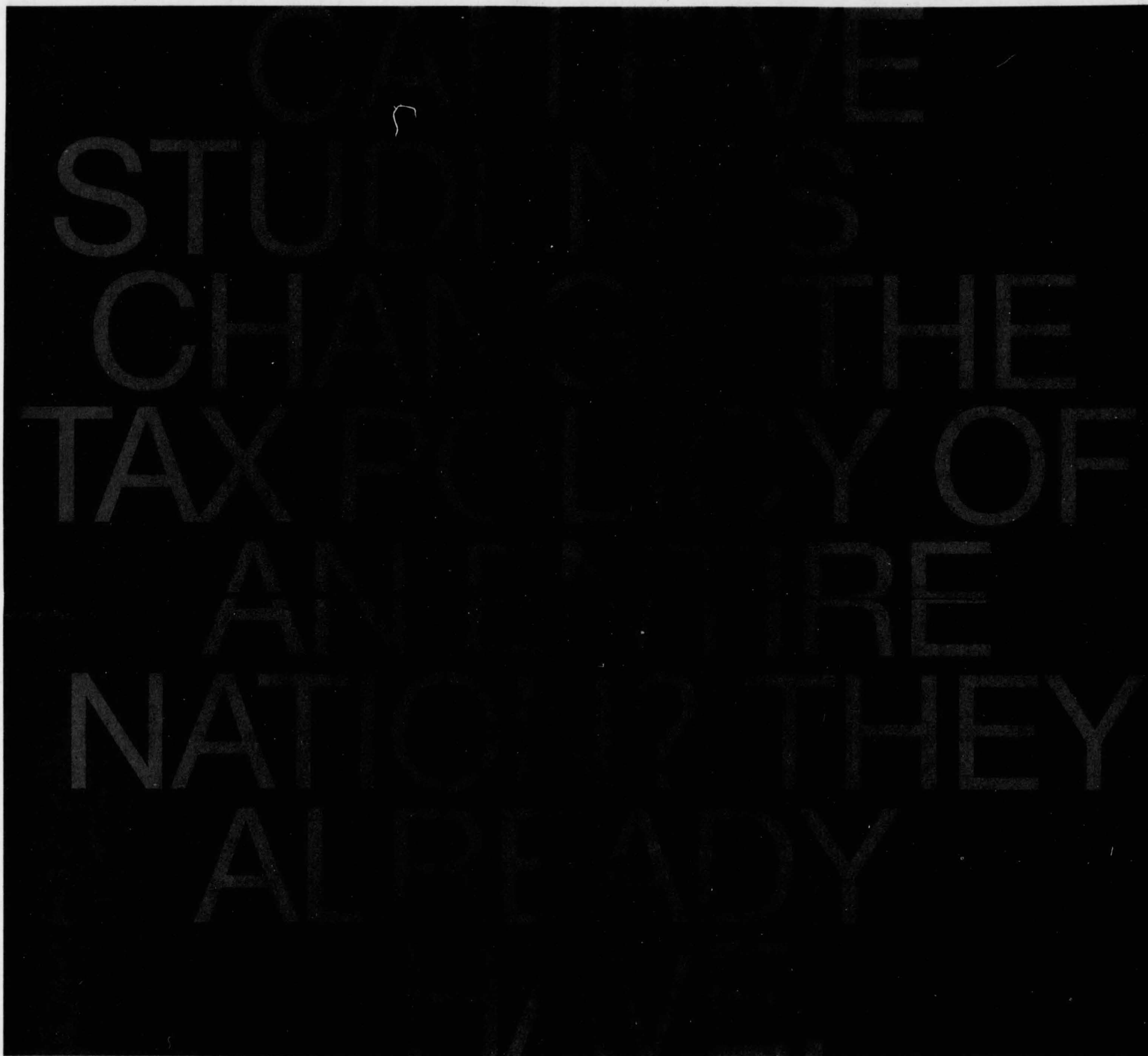
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